

Discover Xeriscaping

Low Water Use Landscaping Can Keep Your Bill Low Too

Planting cacti that are native to our Sonoran Desert isn't the only way to have a water-efficient landscape. You can surround your home with beautiful flowers, shrubs, and trees and keep your water use low at the same time. Since about 60% of water usage occurs outdoors, that means a lower monthly water bill. Once you know the secrets of Xeriscaping (*ZEER-a-scape-ing*) the whole picture will come into focus.

Xeriscaping is the art of creative landscaping with low water use or drought-tolerant vegetation, irrigating efficiently, and utilizing rainwater harvesting and other water conserving features.

For a colorful spring, use some of these low water use plants common in Xeriscaping.

Shrubs

Bird of Paradise	Fairy Duster	Lantana
Penstemon	Desert Honeysuckle	
Littleleaf Cordia		

Trees

Chitalpa	Palo Verde	Desert Willow
Whitethorn Acacia	Desert Ironwood	

Groundcover and Flowers

Desert Marigold	Globe-Mallow
Golden Dyssodia	Trailing Indigo Bush
Mexican Poppy	

Continued Inside



"System Equity Fee" Possible For New Service Connections

Tucson Water Studying Cost Recovery from New Development

In order to ensure smooth delivery of high quality water and service to current and future customers, Tucson Water has always made sure to build our infrastructure with a look to future usage. We design and build water mains, reservoirs, and other water facilities with additional capacity so that our water system will meet peak demands for many years into the future.

New development benefits from that extra capacity built into the existing infrastructure without having to make the same investment in that infrastructure that current customers have made.

Continued Inside



On the Water Front



I often tell our customers that Tucson Water couldn't be doing a good job for you or be so well respected nationally without your help. I'd like to thank the many customers who over the years have shared their

thoughts and advice with us on everything from water quality to paying water bills through automatic deduction. In so doing, you have been especially helpful in the utility's decision-making processes.

First is our Citizens Water Advisory Committee or CWAC. Last month I mentioned how CWAC assists us in setting water rates. But at its monthly meeting, CWAC discusses a number of other issues with Tucson Water staff. The Committee looks at major capital projects such as the construction and expansion of the Clearwater Renewable Resource Facility, water reservoirs, and water main installations. The input from this group is very important, not only because they represent the wishes and concerns of our customers, but also because they are diverse in their knowledge, interests, and backgrounds and contribute valuable ideas and generate meaningful dialogue.

Second are those many customers who have participated in discussion groups, taste testing and other organized research activities that have helped Tucson Water immensely in dealing with water quality issues and in helping us determine the best ways to communicate with our customers.

Third are the thousands of you who have completed and mailed in our questionnaires on customer services, have dropped us an email through our web site, or telephoned to ask questions or share your thoughts about issues.

Tucson Water welcomes the input and feedback of our customers and we listen to what you say to us.

Five years ago you told us what amount of mineral content you find acceptable in your water and we've worked to maintain that level. You've shared with us the water quality standards you'd like to have us report to you each month, and we designed our water quality information program around those standards.

Working together like this has helped us be more customer oriented - more responsive to you - and has helped you understand better what we do every day to supply you with quality water. This type of partnership is good for you, good for us, and good for our community. Thank you.

David V. Modeer
Director, Tucson Water

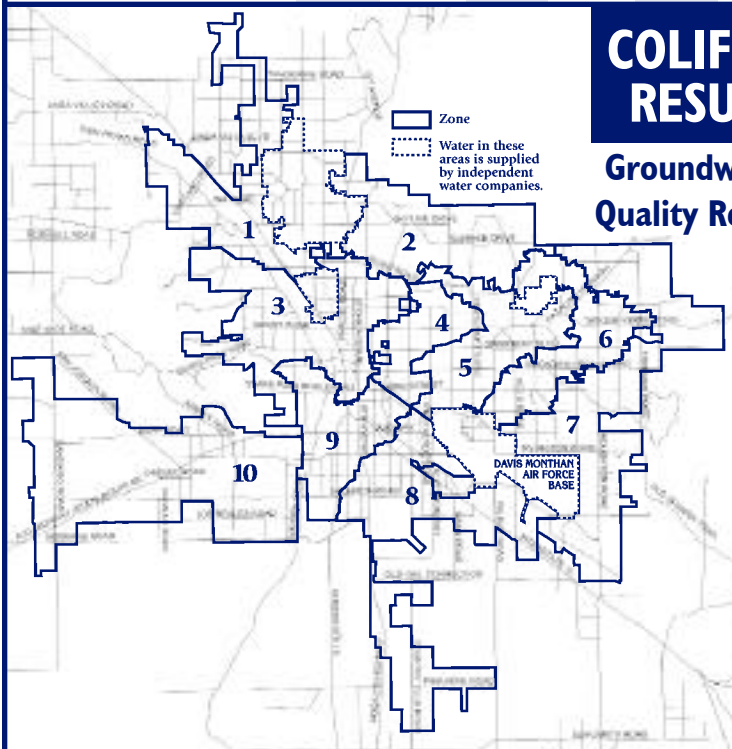
Clearwater Quality Report - November 2002

47*	Sodium (ppm)
282.2	Mineral Content (ppm)
77*	Hardness (ppm)
8.05	pH (units)
Neg	Coliform Bacteria
1.11	Chlorine level average (ppm)
85.2	Temp (deg F)

** Values for October*

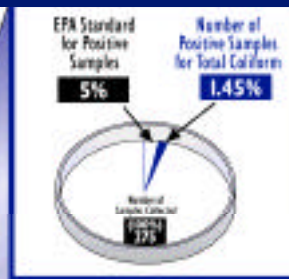
GROUNDWATER QUALITY REPORT - September 2002

Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (ppm)	Average Range	46 34-51	44 42-46	43 24-62	39 30-44	39 29-45	35 24-43	31 27-45	40 32-45	44 40-52	39 38-41	40 24-62
Mineral Content (ppm)	Average Range	361 196-538	293 248-321	316 182-466	249 187-301	262 163-297	248 207-286	233 170-298	341 298-448	247 209-320	219 211-223	273 163-538
Hardness (ppm)	Average Range	138 72-205	118 109-126	116 60-207	93 76-122	110 92-121	113 103-131	107 92-120	166 142-259	90 74-124	72 68-77	114 60-259
pH (units)	Average Range	7.6 7.1-8.1	7.9 7.6-8.1	7.8 7.4-8.1	7.8 7.4-8.1	7.7 7.3-8.1	7.7 6.9-8.1	7.8 7.5-8.0	7.6 7.3-7.8	7.9 7.4-8.2	7.7 7.5-7.9	7.8 6.9-8.2
Temperature (deg F)	Average Range	84 77-90	88 85-90	86 80-93	89 83-91	86 77-92	86 77-92	86 83-90	87 81-94	90 84-95	89 87-90	87 77-95

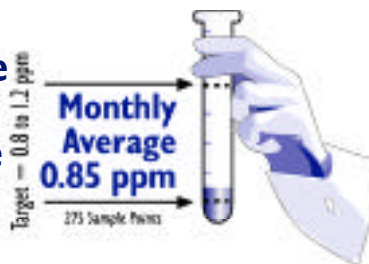


COLIFORM BACTERIA TESTING RESULTS - September 2002

Groundwater Quality Report



Chlorine Level Average



“PPM” means one part per million; 1 ppm = 1 teaspoon in 1,320 gallons

To give you a more accurate measurement of the water quality in your neighborhood, the Tucson Water service area has been divided into 10 zones

based on differences in water pressure and water quality. For a detailed description of the zone boundaries, call 791-4331.

“System Equity Fee”

Possible For New Service Connections

Tucson Water Studying Cost Recovery from New Development

Continued from Front Cover

To address that issue, Tucson Water has determined the “per service” portion of the total value of our existing water infrastructure and is proposing a “System Equity Fee” be applied to each new water service connection. Tucson’s Mayor and Council will consider the fee early next year. If approved, the new fee will begin in July 2003.

“This is a way to ensure that new water connections pay a share of the costs associated with the benefits they derive from our existing water system,” says Dave Modeer, Director of Tucson Water. The “System Equity Fee” would apply only to new water service connections. “But all customers, both existing and new, will benefit,” Modeer points out, “because revenues from this fee would reduce the need for and the level of future water rate increases.”

The City of Tucson, as directed by voters who approved the City’s General Plan last year, is also looking at allocating costs and benefits of growth in an equitable manner so that it can better serve all its citizens.

Tucson Water will keep you up-to-date on the “System Equity Fee” as more information becomes available.

Visit the Tucson Water Web Site at <http://www.cityoftucson.org/water>

The Water Connection is produced by Tucson Water. To receive a copy, or to receive this information in Spanish, call 791-4331 or mail your request to: Customer Information, P.O. Box 27210, Tucson, AZ 85726-7210.

City of Tucson TTY number: 791-2639

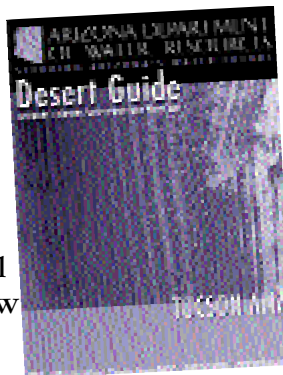
**Si usted desea este documento escrito en español,
por favor, llame al 791-4331.**



Discover Xeriscaping

Low Water Use Landscaping

Continued from Back



*There are many sources of information on Xeriscaping. This helpful booklet, “**Desert Guide: Drought Tolerant Low Water Use Plant List**”, is available on the web from the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) at www.water.az.gov.*

ADWR Xeriscaping Contest Winners—2002

The Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) sponsors a contest each Spring to recognize citizens who have done the best job of Xeriscaping in their landscaping projects. For more information about the contest, call ADWR’s Tucson Office at 770-3816 or visit their website at www.water.az.gov. Some of the winners for 2002 include:

Homeowner Awards

1st Place: Kelly Frink and Tag Merrick

2nd Place: Jenny Coniglio

Professional Awards

“Best Use of Native Plants to Attract Wildlife”:

Nature Conservancy, Tucson
Conservation Center, John
Chinnock, Landscape Architect